

If it's true that Sinclair Broadcasting Co. will be allowed to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, the very foundation of our representative democracy is threatened.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

What's next? Will Sinclair forbid local stations from broadcasting reports of alleged voter fraud, that apparently will diminish democratic voters' participation in the election? Wasn't it Sinclair Broadcasting Co among others that did not allow political advertisements critical of the present administration to be aired on their network of stations (e.g., political ads sponsored by MoveOn Org)?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sincerely,
Hal Jackson